Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims:

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (New) A computer implemented system for categorizing email comprising:
        a means for determining a web of relationships between a sender and a
                receiver of an email;
        a means of calculating a degrees of separation between the sender and the
                receiver based on the web of relationships; and
        a means for categorizing a relationship between the sender and the receiver
                based on the degrees of separation.

5.   (New) The system in claim 4 wherein:
        the web of relationships is determined utilizing a PGP web of trust.

6.   (New) The system in claim 4 wherein:
        an identity of the sender is established via PGP.

7.   (New) The system in claim 4 wherein:
        the categorization automatically rejects the email if the degrees of separation
                exceeds a prespecified value.

8.   (New) The system in claim 7 wherein:
        the prespecified value is dependent upon an identity of the sender.

9.   (New) The system in claim 4 wherein:
        the categorization automatically files the email in a prespecified location if
            the degrees of separation are less than a prespecified value.

10.   (New) A method of automatically categorizing email comprising:
        determining a web of relationships between a sender and a receiver of an
            email;
        calculating a degrees of separation between the sender and the receiver
            based on the web of relationships; and
        categorizing a relationship between the sender and the receiver based on the
            degrees of separation.

11.   (New) The method in claim 10 wherein:
        the web of relationships is determined utilizing a PGP web of trust.

12.   (New) The method in claim 10 wherein:
        an identity of the sender is established via PGP.

13.   (New) The method in claim 10 which further comprises:
        rejecting the email if the degrees of separation exceeds a prespecified value.

14.   (New) The method in claim 10 which further comprises:
        filing the email in a prespecified location if the degrees of separation are less
            than a prespecified value.

15.   (New) The method in claim 14 wherein:
        the prespecified value is dependent upon an identity of the sender.

16. (New) A computer readable storage medium containing computer instructions for categorizing email, wherein the computer instructions comprise:

a means for determining a web of relationships between a sender and a receiver of an email;

a means of calculating a degrees of separation between the sender and the receiver based on the web of relationships; and

a means for categorizing a relationship between the sender and the receiver based on the degrees of separation.

17. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
the web of relationships is determined utilizing a PGP web of trust.

18. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
an identity of the sender is established via PGP.

19. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
the categorization automatically rejects the email if the degrees of separation exceeds a prespecified value.

20. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 19 wherein:
the prespecified value is dependent upon an identity of the sender.

21. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
the categorization automatically files the email in a prespecified location if the degrees of separation are less than a prespecified value.

22. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
the computer instructions comprise a software plug-in capable of being installed in an email client.

23. (New) The computer readable storage medium in claim 16 wherein:
the computer instructions comprise an email client.